

Jousting for JOY

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

Chambliss to hold hearing here Monday

U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., will hold a field hearing of his Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel at the Museum of Aviation Eagle Building Monday at 1 p.m.

Chambliss, who serves as Chairman of the subcommittee, said the purpose of the hearing is to listen to the issues affecting our military men and women and their families, identifying things the military could do better - especially during times of deployment - to support military members, their spouses and children. Chambliss' hearing is titled: Issues Affecting Families of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines.



Chambliss

"Despite the successful military campaign in Operation Iraqi Freedom and other key missions and deployments around the world, it is clear there has been a tremendous burden placed on our military families," said Chambliss. "The goal of this hearing is to learn first-hand from our military men, women and their families the unique challenges they face. The more information we are able to take away from this hearing, the more we will be able to improve the quality of life for our service members and their families."

Three panels will present testimony before the subcommittee. Invited witnesses include:

- Military and civilian officials who will testify about current policies designed to help military families.

- Witnesses who will help examine the implementation of current policies at installations in Georgia.

- Spouses of military members stationed in Georgia who will testify about their personal stories.

Chambliss said the information gathered at the hearing would be used to help him as a Senate Armed Services member who will be negotiating final touches to the fiscal year 2004 Defense Authorization bill with House members. The information will also be used at a hearing on Capitol Hill in June.

5th MOB comes home

■ Wet weather doesn't dampen reception for returning airmen

By Staff Sgt. Adam Stump

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Even a constant stream of rain couldn't dampen the spirits of 27 airmen, who returned May 22 from a four-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The airmen, all from the 51st Combat Communications Squadron, traveled back on a C-5 and were bussed from the flight line to Building 963, where family members, friends, coworkers, a red carpet, the Brass Quintet from the band of the Air Force Reserve and summer Georgia rain awaited them.

The airmen set up and operated networks, switches, and base-level communications terminal equipment while deployed as members of the 410th Expeditionary Communications Squadron in Southwest Asia. They provided critical voice, message high-speed data communications and precision radar support for operational users. According to Capt. Tim Pearson, information systems flight commander, this deployment was one of the best examples of what the 5th Combat Communications Group does.

"We went to a bare base. There was nothing," he said. "We built up comm (communications) in a couple months, executed the war, and then we completely tore it down and brought it all home. The deployment was intense, but that's what we're used to. It was a perfect template for what we do in combat comm."

Airmen said they were proud to serve, but they were also glad to return.

"It's good to come home," said Maj. Jeff Holifield, 51st

Please see **HOME, 2A**



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp
April Spikes, left, toasts her husband, Staff Sgt. Terrance Spikes, to celebrate his return home, his birthday and their third wedding anniversary.



Staff Sgt. Stanley Beaver gets a welcoming handshake from Russell Zinkel. Beaver was one of 27 5th CCG members who returned May 22 from a four-month deployment in support of OIF.

Team puts Lean to use

By Lisa Mathews

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When it comes to implementing Lean principles, members of the Radar Transmitter Modulator Team in the Avionics and Instruments Division of the Directorate of Maintenance aren't wasting any time.

Because of their efforts, the team is now completing seven to eight units per month as opposed to two units per month last August.

Change agent Abe Banks said a value stream event in August, 2002, led to fast results from those who would be affected by the changes. During a value stream event, the team gathers to brainstorm possible ways to reduce or improve steps in the process being evaluated. A few months later usually comes the standard work event, at which time the changes decided on earlier are to be implemented.

When March arrived, and it was time for the standard work event, members of the RTM Team had already implemented the ideas from the value stream event.

Banks said, "After the value stream events we have three classifications - event, project and 'do it.'"

Events are those things to do in the future. Projects take one or two people and can take a month or two to complete. "Do it" events are those things to be done right away.

Rather than waiting for events and projects, Homer Tharpe, supervisor of the team, and his co-workers,

Please see **LEAN, 2A**

Bug busters begin five-night spraying

By Lanorris Askew

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It's a beautiful evening just past dusk and you and your mate are sitting on the front porch watching the stars. He leans a little closer and starts to sing into your ear. You reach out and whack him as hard as you can. No, not your mate, but that pesky mosquito that won't seem to go away.

Enter the Bug Busters of the Robins Air Force Base Pest Management Office, who are here to save the evening for romance and play for all those who dare pass their front doors during the months of the mosquito.

Tech. Sgt. William King, non-commissioned officer in charge of pest management, said he and his team are on the job setting out larvacide and fogging to keep the base safe from mosquitoes and the dis-

INSIDE

Tips on how to stay safe from the West Nile Virus

Page 2A

eases they may carry.

"We started fogging three nights a week about two weeks ago," he said. "But that just wasn't enough. This year the mosquito populations are larger. This is the first week we have switched to five-night fogging."

King said cases of the West Nile virus have already been reported in Georgia and since it is impossible to put up a barricade against the flying pests, fogging is the only alternative.

"We have close ties with Public Health who does the actual monitoring of mosquito populations on base," he said.

According to King, Public Health



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

The Pest Management Office sprays for mosquitoes. Fogging is done from 8 to 11 p.m. using environmentally safe chemicals.

does mosquito trapping and collection. When at least 25 mosquitoes are caught in a trap overnight they are dispatched to that area for fogging. In addition to Public Health,

Environmental Management also works with them to identify any possible breeding habitats.

Please see **BUG, 2A**

**Robins
3-day
forecast**

Today
Partly cloudy
and warm



84/59

Saturday
Mostly cloudy
with chance of
afternoon rain



86/62

Sunday
Partly cloudy
and warm



83/63

**What's
inside**

Robins honors military spouses at reception **4A**
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Military dogs retire after nearly a decade of service **8A**
Service flag inspired by a memory **2B**

HOME

Continued from 1A

commander, as he answered questions from local television and newspaper reporters who covered the unit’s return. “We left on a cold January night, and it’s nice to come back to a very green, slightly damp, warm Georgia day.”

The flow of rain didn’t dampen the flow of emotions from both military members and their families. Pearson said seeing his wife, Bonnie, was emotional, but hard to put into words.

“It’s hard to explain,” he said. “You think about coming back home for months and when it happens, you’re just filled with a lot of different emotions. It was just great to give her a hug, and to realize we’re home and it’s not just a dream.”

Another airman was thankful for the timing of the return.

“I can’t ask for a better feeling,” said Staff Sgt. Terrance Spikes, a communications and computer systems operations journeyman who returned a day after his birthday and two days after his third wedding anniversary. “This is the happiest I’ve ever been - other than my wedding day.”

“I was just elated,” said April Spikes, Terrance’s wife. “I didn’t think I was going to cry, but when he got off (the



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

The wet weather didn’t stop 3-year-old Kimberlyn from giving her dad, Staff Sgt. Chris Smith, a welcome home kiss.

bus), I couldn’t help it. I was bawling. I’m just glad to have him home.”

The Spikes said they are planning to celebrate their anniversary like a winning quarterback from a Super

Bowl team - by going to Disney World.

More than 225 airmen from the 5th MOB are still deployed to Southwest Asia in support of OIF. Approximately 125 airmen have returned.

very supportive.”

“We’ve always tried to work as a team,” Tharpe said. “We got away from the job site so that we could focus on support for the war fighter. It’s been really good.

“(Lean) is ongoing. No matter how good the process, there are always improvements you can make,” he said.

The team is also looking to the future when they will rearrange workstations for a better flow for their work process.

Randall Evans, precision attack Lean coordinator, said, “This team was willing to try to make changes. They took the initiative.”

BUG

Continued from 1A

King said the fogging bug busters concentrate on highly populated areas like housing, dining halls and areas where people work at night, like the gates.

“We have a good handle on it,” he said. “Since mosquitoes are only active from dusk until dawn, only the areas that are populated during those hours are fogged.”

Fogging is done from 8 to 11 p.m. and the chemicals used are environmentally safe.

“The chemical is called pyrethrins and has a very low residual, meaning it doesn’t stay in the air very long, and it does a very good job,” said King.

The chemicals are also used in small enough concentrations that there is no need to worry about pets or children - although they rec-



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Pest management is on the job setting out larvacide to keep the base safe from mosquitoes and the diseases they may carry.

ommend that joggers or children on bicycles not follow directly behind the foggers.

Tech. Sgt. Mansur Cooper, of the pest control office, said his office wants the base populace to know the foggers will be coming,

and to be educated about the West Nile virus.

“We want to educate people as much as possible as a proactive measure,” he said.

King said they are not collecting any dead birds, and there is no testing being done on base.

“West Nile is a big scare right now,” he said. “But we are being as proactive as possible at this time.”

Bob Sargent, Environmental Resources chief, said it’s important to remember that caution is warranted, but not panic.

“Human infections with this virus are actually rare,” he said.

The Centers for Disease Control define West Nile as a virus, which resides in birds but is transmitted by mosquitoes to humans, horses and other mammals. It causes no symptoms in most of those bitten, and a flu-like syndrome of aches, fever and headache in a few.

How to protect against the West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus is a disease that is spread by infected mosquitoes. The best defense against the virus is not giving mosquitoes a place to breed. Here are some tips from the Emergency Management, Entomology and Public Health:

- ☞ Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that have collected on your property.
- ☞ Pay attention to discarded tires. Stagnant water in tires is where most mosquitoes breed.
- ☞ Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers left outdoors.
- ☞ Clean clogged roof gutters every year.
- ☞ Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use. Don't let water stagnate in birdbaths.
- ☞ Clean and chlorinate swimming pools not in use.
- ☞ Wear insect repellent containing DEET, but don't use products containing DEET on infants.
- ☞ Turn off dripping outdoor faucets.
- ☞ Don't over-irrigate lawns.
- ☞ Repair window and door screens.
- ☞ Remember that mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn, so avoid being outdoors during those periods, if possible.
- ☞ Consider using outdoor lights that do not attract insects.

Capitol cycle
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Armed forces
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C-5 Lean process revisted

By Doug Fingles
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One of the tenets of Lean is that you never stop looking for waste. Even organizations that have used Lean for years find they can continue to make large gains after five or six times through the process.

Two years after the first one, it was appropriate that the C-5 community take another pass through their Programmed Depot Maintenance process. Most, if not all, of the events identified during the first Value Stream Map were complete, and the reorganization last year changed many of the relationships in the Center.

Even though the numbers for the C-5 were looking better than at any time at Robins, it was time to refocus the direction of process improvement, and Lean, within the C-5 Maintenance Branch.

“Any opportunity for the management team to spend dedicated time together mapping out current processes and setting goals for the future is always beneficial.” Dede Swint, the C-5 Lean change agent said.

Col. Ed Connolly and Steve Tomblin of the C-5 Aircraft Maintenance Branch took their leadership team through the second pass at a VSM for the C-5 PDM during the week of April 21.

The differences from the original were vast.

From an initial process map two years ago, covering three walls and a mindset of “I’ll get it to you when you need it” to six well-defined cells and a philosophy of “when it leaves me it will be ready for the next step” is a remarkable feat for any organization, let alone one that repairs the largest, and one of the oldest aircraft in the Air Force.

Connolly noted to the team at the beginning of the event that Lean was one tool for change and the key to successful change is to have leadership involved along with the mechanics. He also said they would continue to push the backshops and suppliers to match production cells with the C-5 pull system.

The C-5 VSM team then got down to work and set two goals for the C-5 for the next 12 months.

First, to achieve a 100 percent on-time delivery rate; and second, to increase the quality of the aircraft delivered to the customer. Getting



U.S. Air Force photo by Anthony Dunn
David Stone, C-5 Functional Test ALS, describes the Functional Test As-Is process.

the aircraft back to the customer on time means more aircraft in the field and flying missions. Higher quality means the aircraft will go directly from PDM to flying those missions.

Both of those goals are instances of using Lean to transform the PDM process to increase the capabilities of the war fighters.

After defining the goals, the team broke up into groups and looked at the current processes, critical parts and support requirements, and where to improve performance. They returned with dozens of ideas for improvements, covering everything from internal communications to external support with parts and material. With a lot of lively give and take discussion, they chose the top 11 events, three projects, and two do-its to be accomplished over the next four months. These are the areas that will most improve the process, help the C-5 reduce flow-days, and deliver every aircraft on time with better quality.

At the time of the first C-5 VSM, the PDM process averaged 360 days and few were produced on time. Two years and 37 Lean events later, the C-5s are tracking towards 220 days in PDM, and they are on course to produce a record 23 aircraft this year.

Explaining this success, Tomblin said, “The C-5 is doing great because the mechanic and first line leadership are taking the initiative and making things happen, using Lean as a tool to make the C-5s even better than they are today.”

Rarely is the second time at anything more memorable than the first, but the C-5 Value Stream Map event qualifies in many ways.

“The days we spent together helped us build on the commitment of all to use Lean as a tool to achieve our goals. The C-5 team is proud of the things that have been accomplished and we are ready for the challenges of reaching the next steps,” Swint said.

■ Middle Georgians should be on alert for severe weather

By Holly J. Logan
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Although some may think hurricanes don’t affect the Middle Georgia community, Dean Soderberg said recent history has proven otherwise.

Last week marked the beginning of hurricane season, and Soderberg, readiness specialist for the 78th Civil Engineering Group’s readiness office, said Robins should be prepared for severe weather that could form as a result.

“Robins is located close to two separate favorite landfall areas for hurricanes - the Atlantic Coast, approximately 160 miles east of here, and the Gulf Coast, approximately 185 miles south-southwest of here,” he said. “This creates the potential for high winds and damage from hurricanes making landfall on either location.”

Soderberg, whose office serves as the Air Force equivalent to emergency management, said if Hurricane Andrew, measuring 220 miles wide, would’ve made landfall in Savannah in 1992, Robins would’ve been impacted in a great way.

“The Middle Georgia area is affected by dangerous weather all the time, and dangerous weather always has the potential of becoming disastrous,” he said. “The biggest potential problem at Robins is tornados that spin off from hurricanes. Any large hurricane that makes landfall near Florida or Alabama could produce tornados in our area.”

In 1994, Hurricane Alberto drenched Robins, and left many Team Robins members in an aquatic mess.

Becky Wainwright, clerical assistant in the Center’s history office, said the massive amounts of rain caused a nearby creek to overflow, nearly flooding her home.

“I lived off of Feagin Mill Road at the time, and Sandy Run Creek ran behind my property,” she said. “Water from the creek rose all the way up to my back deck. It was something we never expected, but this proved it could happen.”

According to base accounts of the flooding, the downpour that dumped a total of 11.15 inches of rain, left many forced out of their homes - including base wildlife.

With weather technology improving, predictability of such



U.S. Air Force file photo
Many areas, like the water treatment plant, were flooded when Hurricane Alberto rolled through Robins in 1994.

Severe weather tips

Identify ahead of time where you can go if told to evacuate due to severe weather.

Keep handy the telephone number of that place as well as a road map of your locality. You may need to take alternative or unfamiliar routes.

Listen to the National Weather Service, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and local TV and radio stations.

If severe weather occurs, take cover in the

inner most portion of the house, away from windows.

Stay away from low-lying areas, where water tends to accumulate.

Prepare to bring any lawn furniture, outdoor decorations and ornaments, trashcans, hanging plants, and anything else that can be picked up by the wind inside.

Be aware that "calm eye" is deceptive; the storm is not over. The worst part of the storm occurs when the eye

passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction.

Tornados can happen during and after a hurricane passes over. Stay in the inner most portion of your house, and don’t go outside.

Stay away from floodwaters. If you are in a flooded area, and water is rising rapidly, climb to a higher place.

After hurricane-related storms, use flashlights, not candles.

— From the Disaster Control Group Office

What to know

Watch - Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of a watch, usually within 36 hours.

Warning - Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of a warning, usually within 24 hours.

The National Weather Service, in Peachtree City, Ga., issues these advisories for the Robins area.

weather may provide people with more preparation time.

Beginning this year, the National Weather Service will use a five-day hurricane forecast, providing a detailed report predicting the time, location, and strength of storms at landfall, a method different from the three-day forecast of the past, Soderberg said.

Although thunderous storms with heavy rainfall are a real potential

during hurricane season, Soderberg said his office is working with Houston and Bibb County Emergency Management and the surrounding areas of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency Area 4 council to decide how to respond should there ever be another storm of this magnitude.

Soderberg said when it comes to disastrous weather, preparation is one of the most important things people can do.

“Failure to plan is planning to fail,” he said. “People need to plan for disastrous situations prior to their happening or they’re just planning on disaster to strike them. You have to be ready ahead of time.”

For more information on how to become prepared if disastrous weather should happen, go to www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe or visit the NOAA Web site at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov> for information on inland wind predictions.

Robins honors military spouses at reception

By Chris Zdrakas
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When her husband is TDY, Jennifer Magnuson calls him with family news like “one of our kids put a bean up their nose or the car broke down.”

But last week, hours after being named Robins AFB Spouse of the Year for 2003, the big news was “we won something.” The “something” was the honor of being recognized and a prize package valued at nearly \$1,200 the Magnusons will share when he arrives home.

Capt. Robert D. Magnuson of the 78th Medical Group was among 38 men and women who entered essays on the topic “Why My Spouse Is so Terrific” in a Family Support Center-sponsored essay contest.

The contest is designed to call attention to the contributions of all spouses, both military and civilian. A panel of judges reviewed the essays and chose first, second and third place winners.

Second place went to Julie L. Shiner, wife of Maj. Fred Shiner, commander of the 53rd Combat Communications Squadron, and third to Kathy Cornelius, wife of Lt. Col. Stan Cornelius of the 116th Air Control Wing. The Shiners received prizes valued at \$818, and the Corneliuses, a package valued at \$741.

Family Support Center honored the nominees and their spouses at a reception May 14 at the Robins Officers’ Club.

The program coordinator, Cindy Graver, read excerpts from each essay, and the nominees came forward to receive a rose and a certificate from Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Center commander. Col. Tom Smoot, commander of the 78th Air Base Wing, also participated in the program. Maj. Gen. John Batbie, Jr., vice commander of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, attended.

In his essay, Capt. Magnuson wrote that his wife “wears no rank, yet exemplifies excellence, integrity and selflessness,” that “she works as hard in her career field of wife, mother and citizen as any active-duty member constantly seeking opportunities to contribute.”

Among her contributions, she was the driving influence for the overhaul of the pediatric waiting room at the base medical facility, put in place a volunteer program to the front desk at the clinic, recharged the Red Cross volunteer program and became its volunteer coordinator, is a key spouse supporting spouses new to the Air Force and initiated a welcome lunch for new spouses.

“I’m amazed...a little speechless,” the winner said. She said



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
From left to right are Julie Shiner, second place, Jennifer Magnuson, Robins Air Force Base Spouse of the Year, and Kathy Cornelius, third place.

her volunteer schedule and her three children — Jacob, 11 months; Chloe, 5; and Madeline, 7 — “keep me on my toes.”

“I think of the adage ‘if you want something done, give it to a busy person,’ and here I am,” Magnuson said. While she’s busy, she also has “grown-up” time, which she defines as “when you dress up and put on lipstick.”

Shiner

“When my name was called, I felt a little disbelief, that in no way

would I be one of the top three,” Shiner said “But this is not a competition, it’s a recognition. I certainly don’t do it for that, but it’s nice to be recognized.”

Her husband wrote the essay from his deployed location describing her work heading up a 70-member spouses club and other activities. Shiner said she couldn’t have achieved what she did without the help of the squadron spouses. The Shiners have two children — Jessalyn, 2 1/2, and Jake, 18 months old.

Cornelius

Cornelius said she felt honored her husband nominated her, particularly considering the busy schedule he has right now.

“Sometimes when you’re a stay-at-home mom, you think people don’t notice the things you do. He put it in words, and that meant a lot,” she said.

The Corneliuses have four sons - Stan, Jr., 15; David, 11; Cody, 7; and Benjamin, 3. She described as “the best years of my life” the 17 years she and her husband have been an Air Force family.

“There’s no tougher job in the Air Force,” Smoot told the group in his opening remarks. “When you look at the sacrifices and commitment of our spouses in the Air Force today, both military and civilian, it’s amazing what they do. In my opinion, every day should be Spouses’ Appreciation Day.”

Wetekam described the reception as “a wonderful event, indicative of the tremendous family support our Team Robins really enjoys.”

He said everyone who contributes to the Air Force mission is part of a team, and that the team couldn’t function without the “marvelous family support that we enjoy from our spouses.”

“Everybody here is a winner. They really are,” Wetekam concluded.

27th annual Camellia Garden Ceremony pays tribute to 81

By Chris Zdrakas
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For the first time in recent history, the Camellia Gardens Memorial Service was moved indoors to the Base Chapel, where an overflow crowd paid tribute to 81 departed military and civilian members of the Robins Air Force Base family.

The threat of rain did not change the character of the service - a patriotic salute to the men and women who have helped preserve America's freedom - or the program, a mix of music and words that served to comfort friends, family members and co-workers.

Many immediate family members visited the Camellia Garden between the raindrops to search the memorial wall for the name of their loved ones.

One of them, Cheryl Grubbs, there to honor her late brother, William Henson, said "I think it helps to know that people out here appreciate what he did." Henson's other sister, Terry Henson, said she most appreciated "the reverence of the ceremony."

Former Warner Robins Mayor and Councilwoman Henrietta McIntyre, whose husband, Robert P. McIntyre, Jr., was honored, said the 2003 service was the first she had attended since the service tradition began.

"It was very touching," she said. She observed that, for her, the placing of the wreath was the most moving portion of the ceremony.

David Adkins said he has always held his father, the late Will W. Adkins, in great respect and that he was attending the ceremony to remember him.

"I really thought they did a nice job," he said after the service. "I liked the musical



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Above, Margaret Scheer rings a handbell after Chaplain (Capt.) Jamie Braswell (not shown) reads the names of the 81 being memorialized. Right, members of the Robins Air Force Base Honor Guard present the colors at the Camellia Garden Memorial Service.

selections. The lady who sang the National Anthem did a wonderful job."

Bill Stembridge, district representative for Sen. Saxby Chambliss, attended in honor of his mother, Marion Madge West Stembridge.

"It was a very beautiful ceremony, and I appreciated it so much. I have been to a dozen services, but this was special because of my mom," he said. "It was unbelievably appropriate and very well done. I have to tip my hat to everybody here."

Camellia Gardens is a team effort, but its planning, coordination and implementation is the responsibility of the 78th Air Base Wing's Administrative and Compliance

Office headed by Kathy Cheshire. Diane Gross is the project manager.

The service's keynote speaker, Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Center commander, said such observances ensure "the day never comes when America forgets" the sacrifices of those who served.

"Today, we take a moment to pause from our everyday tasks - our phone conversations, meetings we all have to attend, our planning and interaction - just to remember our departed loved ones," Wetekam said. "Yes, there is pain, but there's also joy that we had the privilege of knowing and work-



ing with each of them."

He said the 81 who were honored dedicated their professional lives to keeping our nation strong, and although they came from a variety of different jobs, they all shared "a deep love of the United States of America."

"By honoring their memory," he said, "we keep alive the patriotic spirit and our hopes for the future, for our nation, our children and the generation to come."

Legal office announces new walk-in system

The legal assistance walk-in system will be replaced by a new appointment and walk-in system effective June 3.

This change is based on mission requirements and the heightened demand for legal assistance from the base populace. The result of this change will be increased flexibility and improved service to war fighters, their family members and retirees.

Appointments will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesday will remain walk-in day for retirees from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Power of attorney and notary service hours will be Monday through Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. and Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. Same-day appointments will not be made except in the case of valid emergencies. Call 926-3961 ext. 109 or ext. 111 for questions or to set up an appointment.

— From the base legal office

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Service surpassing the standard

■ Fordham, Williams earn service award

By Holly J. Logan
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William W. Fordham and Jesse A. Williams have served at Robins for 50 and 40 years, respectively. Both were recently recognized with letters from Air Force Secretary James G. Roche, and U.S Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, at a recent ceremony held at the Center.

“I thoroughly enjoy my job,” Fordham said. “I feel privileged to work with some of the finest people in the world and get to travel to interesting places with my job.”

Fordham came to Robins as a warehouse worker 51 years ago. He now serves as an electronics mechanic within the plant management branch of the Maintenance Directorate.

Fordham and his wife, Virginia, will celebrate 50 years of marriage June 19. The couple has three children and seven grandchildren.

Fordham said he encourages military members to take full advantage of the educational benefits afforded to them while in service.

“I feel blessed and fortunate to be able to work this long,” Williams said. “I enjoy my job and the people and camaraderie in the workplace.”

Williams came to Robins 38 years ago, as a sheet metal mechanic helper, after serving three years in the U.S. Army. He now serves as section chief in the Plant Management Division of the Maintenance Directorate.

Williams and his wife, Ella, have seven children and two grandchildren.

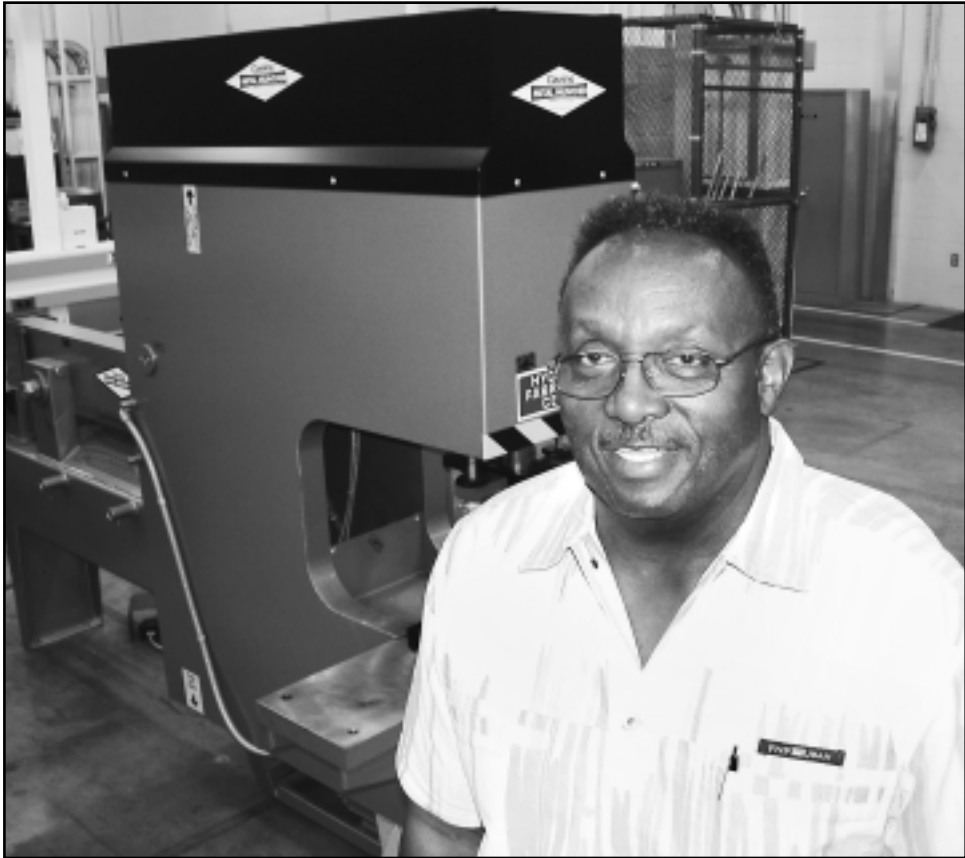
Williams said he credits his mother with the strong sense of discipline exercised in his personal and work life, and the U.S. Army for instilling in him values and providing mentoring opportunities that held two-fold benefits.

Williams said he encourages people to be honest with themselves and others, and to live by “the golden rule.”



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

William Fordham, above, an electronics mechanic within the plant management branch of the Maintenance Directorate, has served at Robins for 50 years. Jesse Williams, below, a section chief in the Plant Management Division of the Maintenance Directorate, has been in federal service for 40 years.



Let’s talk
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Hi-energy
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Armed forces
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PSCM initiative worth a closer look

By Col. Kathleen M. Spencer
Deputy director, Logistics Management Directorate

Yes, Virginia, there is PSCM and it's not nearly as imaginary as Santa Claus or illusive as the Easter Bunny or the Tooth Fairy. Some of you at the ALC may have noticed a few of your co-workers dedicating time to a new set of activities and traveling more in pursuit of PSCM. Or maybe you have heard some of your peers talking about PSCM and wondered, "What is that new acronym?"



Spencer

What follows is not intended to be specific but to begin awareness of PSCM. Future articles will provide the "meat" to the bones of this newest AFMC transformation initiative.

Purchasing and Supply Chain Management is the integration of purchasing and supply processes into a single end-to-end process spanning the AFMC enterprise that reduces supply chain operating costs and improves war fighter readiness.

The PSCM project was initiated in February 2002 as a part of the AF/IL Spares Campaign. In November 2002, Gen. Lester Lyles approved formation of a project team and laid the groundwork for a 14-month PSCM effort that is now in full steam ahead mode.

Senior leadership initiated and enthusiastically supports the PSCM transformation across the AFMC enterprise for several reasons:

- ☛ **To improve the agility and competitiveness of current sustainment processes.**
- ☛ **To better serve the war fighter by employing leading practices in supply chain management.**
- ☛ **To reduce total costs of weapons system sustainment and free up funds for modernization.**
- ☛ **To enhance work force skills and institutionalize the rich, intellectual capital resident in today's work force before it is lost to near-term retirements.**

Recently the PSCM team returned from a 35-day boot camp in Tampa, Fla. The team met to gain a common, integrated understanding of leading practices in PSCM, prioritize issues and create a framework for the continuing work of the project.

The PSCM organizational structure is comprised of four process teams: strategic planning, demand planning, supplier relationship management and customer relationship management. These process teams include subject matter experts from each ALC and the Headquarters that have responsibility for process development and site communications.

The team members are skilled and experienced. They were selected for their positive energy and forward thinking. They are dedicated to the effort for the entire project period and have all committed to spend up to 50 percent of their time on the road col-

laborating within their process teams, which are located at the ALCs and headquarters. When not on the road, the team members will work at their home sites alongside members of the other process teams.

The PSCM team was chartered with implementing purchasing and supply chain management practices that would improve product quality and delivery and reduce purchase costs.

This effort spans the Command and the initial scope includes MSD parts, equipment items and associated engineering services.

At the end of this 14-month project period, AFMC will have an enterprise implementation plan that addresses redesigned processes, new position descriptions, development needs, the business case for enabling technology, and the organizational construct.

The Purchasing component focuses on building processes for Strategic Sourcing and Supplier Management.

The idea is to leverage spend, performance and total supply chain costs. Purchasing will make use of centrally established performance-based contracts and catalogs and will be based on a continuing analysis of external market drivers.

Ordering will be decentralized and performed against the established contracts and catalogs.

AFMC will build alliances with critical suppliers and proactively manage and develop the supply base.

The supply chain component promotes integration and collaboration

among customers, suppliers and AFMC, enabling more effective management of the end-to-end supply chain.

Demand analysis and forecasted requirements are integrated with supplier capacity planning allowing an integrated demand plan. The supply chain component also calls for managing outsourced functions, which is critical to supply chain responsiveness.

Critical to success is common operating picture providing each supply chain member access to accurate and timely data.

By creating a collaborative and integrated environment where decisions are data driven, AFMC can reduce cycle times and make better decisions.

The end result will be lower total costs across the supply chain and a higher level of responsiveness to the customer.

Several key factors differentiate the PSCM transformation effort from other management initiatives. First, it is process centered. Technology, enhanced work force skills, and organizational structure will enable and support the new and improved processes rather than drive them.

Additionally, the individual processes are linked from end to end across the AFMC enterprise. Leadership support at the highest levels is present to ensure these linkages are in place and the corresponding metrics are reflected in an end-to-end fashion across the enterprise. Continuing with the enterprise

approach, the PSCM transformation will be aligned with other active initiatives, for example Lean, where processes intersect, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the PSCM effort.

Employing a strategic, balanced scorecard will ensure that PSCM goals are aligned with AFMC, Air Force, and Department of Defense goals and will drive the right behavior across the organization to achieve them.

We realize this large-scale transformation will require significant and sustained attention to change management.

In order to overcome barriers, the change management program will focus on developing stakeholder buy-in, enlisting leadership from key sponsors, and communications to all levels of the Air Force.

These actions will significantly improve the odds that the organization will adopt, support, and sustain the transformation efforts.

The strategy is simple. To deliver on promises by:

- ☛ **Collaborating with customers and suppliers,**
- ☛ **Building seamless end-to-end processes,**
- ☛ **Integrating purchasing and supply functions, and**
- ☛ **Developing PSCM as a core competency.**

The end result of the project is to realize the vision of becoming the sustainment supplier of choice for worldwide weapons systems parts and equipment support.

Doing the math: Each 'number' is important

By William Morrow
Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Safety Office

When the Air Force Safety Center compared 2002 accident data and trends with those of the previous 15 years, they called it "one of the worst years in recent history."

As we prepare to enter the "101 Critical Days of Summer," I'd like to talk about the numbers and what they mean to us.

According to the Air Force Safety Center, on-duty mishaps were a result of inadequate training, guidance and failure to follow prescribed instructions. How those conditions can exist in a work force with the most educated, driven, intelligent and dedicated personnel defies logic.

Nonetheless, at some point there was a failure that resulted in someone dying while performing their job. These conditions are a disservice to

the work force, and the operational people who rely on that work force to fly and fight. Those conditions are unacceptable and won't be tolerated as way of doing business.

During the 101-day campaign of 2002, there was a 37 percent increase in fatal mishaps over the previous two years - that equates to 30 incidents in 2002 as compared to 19 and 18 respectively for 2001 and 2000.

In several incidents, people were injured or killed by taking a significant risk while peers were in a position to ease or stop the risky behavior. An example of peer influence is the seven automobile mishaps with multiple fatalities. Those mishaps resulted in an additional nine deaths. When comparing multiple fatality mishaps with previous years, 2002 far exceeded the previous eight years, where there were one or two per year.

Our lowest enlisted grades dominate our losses; people who are typically our younger airmen. Approximately 70 percent of Air Force off-duty fatalities consisted of individuals in the 18-25 age group.

Without a doubt, the most hazardous activity our personnel are routinely exposed to is operating a vehicle in traffic. Sixteen of the 72 traffic deaths were passengers. All lost their lives because the operator was taking unnecessary risks. The leading causes of automobile fatalities were alcohol (40 percent), speed and darkness. Fourteen of the 48 fatalities weren't wearing seat belts - of those fourteen, eight fatalities tested positive for alcohol while operating vehicles.

For motorcyclists, the leading causes were lack of skill or experience, speed and darkness. Three mishaps involved a history of "reckless" behavior. Only two

involved alcohol. Only two had not received the required motorcycle safety training. Two weren't wearing helmets. Darkness was involved in both classes of vehicle mishaps.

Darkness limits your visibility by reducing how far you can see, how well you can judge your approach speed, the angle of curves and the distance between objects.

What do these losses mean to our Air Force team? Broken down, we lost 91 maintainers, operators or supporters, 561 years of experience and \$19 million.

Team Robins has been fortunate in that there has not been a loss of life from a duty-related incident in many years.

When we take a look at our own back yard, what do we see as mishaps pertaining to Robins?

Last year, 2,128 incidents resulted in damage to Air Force property or injury to

people - both military and civilian. There were 61 incidents that resulted in a loss of \$128,900 and 354 workdays. There were 20 incidents of property damage with a loss of \$108,993. Regarding our military personnel, between the Center and the Air Base Wing there were 19 off-duty mishaps during 2002. That means there was an injury sufficient enough to keep someone from work. Those losses resulted in a direct loss of \$24,116 and 64 days.

Undeniably the most significant factor in all losses was the lack of judgment by many of the individuals involved. Most mishaps were within the span of control of the vehicle operator to avoid, too much throttle and not enough brake. A disheartening aspect of those losses was the failure of peers to take action. Everyone must work aggressively to reduce that increase in off-duty mishaps. Focus not only

on identifying risky behavior but taking actions to curtail it.

Losses such as these extend beyond the pages of the local newspaper and into the fabric of our community, our churches, our schools and our work place. These are painful experiences that leave survivors, family members and co-workers questioning the reasons, assessing blame, assuming guilt and riding the emotional roller coaster looking for answers.

We don't want to lose sight that the statistics represent the lives of individuals cut short, potential unfulfilled and goals unachieved - not to mention the diminished capability of our war fighting capacity. Each number is as important as a son, daughter, husband or wife. These 101 Critical Days of Summer are a period for greater vigilance, care, caution and awareness of your personal safety as an operator, passenger or participant.

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live. Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes. To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins



Commanders' Action Line

Col. Tom Smoot, Jr.
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing

Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam
Commander,
Warner Robins
Air Logistics Center



Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage at https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.

Paint a crosswalk on First Street near Bldg. 125

There is a need for a crosswalk in front of gate 125-31, going into the C-5 and F-15 work areas near Bldg. 125. There is an overpass that some people use, but many people can't use it because of health reasons. The fact is many people don't use it. Can someone paint a crosswalk, or at least put a sign saying "Slow down for pedestrians?"

Col. Smoot replies: Several years ago the First Street over-

pass was installed to eliminate the safety hazard to employees crossing a main thoroughfare during shift change. Because the overpass is not convenient, many employees choose to cross the road at their own risk. Georgia Traffic Code, Article 5, paragraph 40-6-92, states, "Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the roadway if he or she uses the roadway instead of such tunnel or crossing." In an effort to encourage people to use the crosswalk, a recently submitted work order requesting the installation of a crosswalk across First Street to gate 31 has been disapproved. I encourage all employees to

exercise good judgment and use the overpass for their own safety unless physically unable to do so. Those employees physically unable to use the overpass need to talk to their supervisors to determine the best way for their access to their work areas. Safety, Security Forces, Civil Engineering, Operations Support, and the Maintenance Directorate have worked together to make crossing First Street and entering the gated industrial area as best as possible for safety, security, productivity, and mission success. For these reasons, everyone is encouraged to use the designated avenues for entry/egress into the industrial area and designated parking within the industrial and flight line areas.



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Life-long service

Military dogs, Arno and Nero, retire after nearly a decade of service

By Holly J. Logan
holly.logan@robins.af.mil

While many dogs live to play, Arno and Nero lived to work, serving and protecting their country.

Arno, an 11-year-old Belgium malinois, and Nero, a 9-year-old German shepherd, retired from service at Robins May1.

Arno, a drug-detection dog for the 78th Security Forces Squadron, began work in July 1994 and was very dedicated to his job, according to Staff Sgt. Christopher McCleskey, one of Arno’s past handlers.

“He was a character,” he said. “He was quiet and slow, but very thorough. He was a great dog, and he found a lot of illegal narcotics while

serving with the Drug Enforcement Agency.”

Nero, an explosives-detection dog entered service with the squadron in April 1995, and was one of the best dogs in his field, even in old age, said Staff Sgt. Ross Morgan, military working dogs section trainer.

“He was the best [explosives-detection dog] Robins had,” he said. “He was one of the most well-rounded working dogs we’ve had.”

Tech. Sgt. Michael Socey, noncommissioned officer in charge for the military working dogs section, said the dogs receive few tangible rewards for the tasks they are asked to accomplish. He sees their accomplishments during service as honorable and as worthy of commendation



Arno



Nero

What to know

All military working dogs are trained at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Most of the dogs begin work 18 months to two years of age, with an average retirement age of 10 to 15 years. Retired military working dogs are normally adopted after their retirement.

as the service members they serve with.

“Military working dogs are a critical part of the military mission to combat terrorism, on the homeland and overseas,” he said. “Handlers often get rewarded for the job their dogs have done; but, deep within their hearts, the handlers know who earned the reward.”

Do your part to improve Robins by completing Web-based survey

The Integrated Delivery System Working Group is sponsoring the 2003 Community Assessment Survey of service members and spouses.

The information collected from this survey will be used to assist the Family Support Center, Family Advocacy Program, Health and Wellness Center, Life Skills Center, Family Member Programs, and chaplains to improve services designed to meet the needs of service members and their families.

Air Force installations have used data from previous community assessments to:

- ☞Develop a user-friendly support network for single parents
- ☞Purchase needed child safety seats
- ☞Increase free or low-cost activities for single members
- ☞Coordinate free day care for spouses attending deployed spouse activities
- ☞Provide free health and wellness “check-ups” to all community members
- ☞Set up marriage support seminars for junior enlisted members and their spouses

☞Improve financial counseling services to help members and spouses

☞Increase spouse employment within the community more than 15 percent

☞Increase job opportunities for spouses by recruiting new industries to the area

☞Flex the scheduling of vital family support programs to match community member’s schedules

☞Expand financial counseling programs to members and their families

“As of May 22 Robins has received a return of only 28

percent. It’s important if you received one of these surveys to do your part to take a few moments to complete it,” said Carolyn Stevens, Family Member Program flight chief.

Computers are available to customers at the community center and base library.

If you have any questions concerning the 2003 Community Assessment, contact your local Integrated Delivery System Chair, Carolyn Stevens at 926-5491.

— From the 78th Mission Support Group

Sun retail
57378902

Fickling
57422501

Elva’s
57423201

McMahan
57377501

Actel
57244404

Hardy
57422701

National vision
57280402

Review retirement effective date, forms

By Employee relations specialists

If you are planning to retire soon, there are several things you need to consider.

☞ **Have you established a good effective date?** If you retire voluntarily under the Civil Service Retirement System and set your retirement date for the last day of the month, or the first, second, or third day of the month, your annuity will begin accruing the following day. If you retire voluntarily on the fourth day or after, you will not begin to accrue an annuity until the following month. If you retire under the Federal Employee's Retirement System, your annuity will begin to accrue the first day of the following month that you retired. For FERS, if you retire on May 1, you will not start to accrue an annuity until June 1. However, if you set your retirement date on April 30, your annuity will begin to accrue on May 1.

☞ **Ensure all documents supporting relevant periods of service**, such as, DD 214s for military service, statements of deposit payments for temporary civilian service are included in your Official Personnel Folder. If you need to review your OPF, contact the File Room, Building 215, 926-3805 ext. 319 or visit the Customer Service Office, Building 215, room 109, to schedule an appointment.

☞ **If you have active duty military service after Dec. 31, 1956**, you should consider paying the Post-56 Deposit to cover that service. If you are covered under CSRS and become eligible for social security benefits at age 62, you will need to pay the Post-56 Deposit in order to receive credit for those military years towards your civilian retirement. If you are covered under FERS, you receive no credit for your active duty service unless you make the Post-56 Deposit. You should begin the process of making this deposit no less than six months prior to retirement. For assistance with Post-56 Deposits, contact Delores Stephens at 926-5307.

☞ **For military retirees planning to combine military and civilian service**, you must forward your military retirement pay waiver to DFAS at least 60 days prior to your civilian retirement.

☞ **Review your beneficiary forms to ensure accuracy.** There are four separate beneficiary forms for your Federal benefits: lump sum retirement contributions (SF 2808/CSRS, SF 3102/FERS); unpaid compensation (SF 1152); Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (SF 2823); and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP 3). Ensure all forms are up-to-date with the name and current address of your designated beneficiaries.

☞ **Contact Employee Relations at 926-5307** once you have established a firm date for retirement. A minimum of 30-days notice is required for preparation and processing of your retirement application package. Allowing ample time to process your retirement reduces the chance of a delay in your annuity pay.

For further information on retirement, call your servicing Employee Relations Specialist, Vickie Lacey or Cheri Coklow, at 926-5307.

Yard of the Month competition begins in June

By Chris Zdrakas
chris.zdrakas@robins.af.mil

Spring cleanup is finished, yards are beginning to blossom and bloom, and it's time for the Robins Air Force Base Yard of the Month competition to begin.

The award, presented from June to September, encourages military housing residents to help beautify Robins, beginning literally in their own front and back yards.

Dorothea Slonaker, 778th Civil Engineering Squadron housing

assignments chief, said the awards program instills pride and a sense of ownership in military housing - the places residents call home.

For awards purposes, the housing areas are divided into four sections, with five awards given monthly - three to noncommissioned officers and two to officers.

Judges look for nice lawns - neatly-mowed and edged, no bare spots, and neatly-trimmed hedges; clean, neat carports; and decorative, but not excessive, flowered areas.

The 78th Air Base Wing commander usually presents the awards, which include gift certificates and coupon books. Winners also receive signs to display in their yards for a month.

Every year military housing residents receive vouchers valued at \$40 from the base housing office.

The residents may use the vouchers at the base self-help store to purchase flowers, shrubbery and other yard beautification supplies.

What to know

The Yard of the Month competition begins Saturday. Five awards are given monthly. The 78th Air Base Wing commander usually presents the awards, which include gift certificates and coupon books. Winners also receive signs to display in their yards for a month. For more information, call the housing office at 926-3776.

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